

INFORMATION NOTICE

WORKFORCE SERVICES

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: FREE FILE AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR FREE TAX
PREPARATION AND FILING

This Information Notice serves to alert the Workforce Development Community about Free File and other web-based resources for free federal income tax preparation and filing announced by the U.S. Department of Labor in Training and Employment Notice [TEN 22-10, Change 1](#).

Free File is a service that offers federal tax preparation and electronic filing (e-file) options for eligible taxpayers. The Free File program can help an estimated 70 percent of all taxpayers file their returns for free online. This service is made available through the Free File Alliance, a public-private partnership between the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and commercial tax software companies. Also, eligible taxpayers may receive their refund within 10 days if they file electronically and request direct deposit to their bank account. For more information about Free File, please visit their website at www.freefile.irs.gov.

Another free tax preparation resource is the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The VITA offers free tax preparation help to people who cannot prepare their own tax returns and whose income is less than \$49,000. Most VITA sites also offer free electronic filing and some offer assistance with Free File. To locate the nearest VITA site, call 1-800-906-9887 or visit online at www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=219171,00.html.

In addition, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program provides free tax counseling and basic income tax return preparation to people ages 60 and older. Working with TCE, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) also offers a free tax counseling program for older individuals. For more information on TCE, call 1-800-906-9887. To locate the nearest AARP Tax-Aide site, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit AARP's website at www.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/searchTaxAideLocations.action.

Local Workforce Investment Area (local area) staff are encouraged to publicize these tax preparation resources to customers visiting One-Stops. The Free File website, www.freefile.irs.gov/spread-the-word.html, provides a number of useful materials, including downloadable brochures and posters, fact sheets, frequently asked

EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Special requests for services, aids, and/or special formats need to be made by calling (916) 654-8055 (Voice). TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at 711.

questions, social media tools, and public service announcements. Additionally, local area staff can order free printed Free File brochures and posters from the IRS National Distribution Center by calling 1-800-Tax-Form (1-800-829-3676). The Free File brochure, Pub 4821-A, is available in English and Spanish. The Free File 11x17 poster, Pub 4909, is available in English. Local area staff should make use of these materials where possible, display posters in their One-Stop Career Centers, and become familiar with the Free File website in order to share information about this service with One-Stop Career Center customers. Although established priorities for computer use at One-Stops remain unchanged, local areas may choose to make computers available for free federal tax filing as resources permit.

/S/ MICHAEL EVASHENK, Chief
Workforce Services Division